*Most strange and Wonderful NEWS from*

# NORTH-WALES;

*Being a Faithful and Impartial*

# RELATION,

*Of what strange things has lately hapned in* Merionethshire *in that Country, how a great track of Ground near the Sea Coast, containing many Parishes, has been infested for several Weeks, with great Numbers of strange Creatures like Locusts; of their destroying the Cattle by Pestering and other ways, infecting the Ground, whereby all the Cows, Oxen, Horses, Sheep, &c. that have fed thereon, have dyed.*

*At the same time likewise strange Pillars, Piramids of Fire, and Fire-Balls have invisibly sprang out of the Earth, which has set fire too, and burnt down many Stacks of Hay and Corn, with Barns, Ox and Cow-Houses, and Sheeps-Coats, Woods, Hedges, &c..*

*Also these Fires bursting out of the tops of Hills, levelling the Mountains with Valleys, and removing the Lands, so that men know not their own Grounds; with the strange and miracnlous preservation of Husbandmen that have been in these Fields at the same time.*

17. Feb. 1693/4

*Licensed* Feb. the 12*th* 1694.

THE Sea, called *Sargasso*, though four Hundred Miles from any Land, and so deep, that no ground is to be found by Sounding; (as Geographers tell us) yet abounds with an Herb, called *Sargasso*, like *Samphire*, so thick, that a Ship without a strong Gale, can hardly make her way. As this great Sea is impedited by this contemptible Weed; so we find by Experience, there is nothing so small, annd inconsiderable in our Eyes, but may be able to afflict us, then when we are in the fulness of our Sufficiency.

There is no Person of any Age, or Understanding, but must needs acknowledge, that the last Fourteen Years has been, as it were, an Age of Prodigies and Wonders in these three Kingdoms, so that it may be no former time can parallel so many strange Transactions as have happened in so little space, and therefore as an ingenious Person says,

*Relations of Ptodigies are fit,*
*In times Prodigious to be writ.*

An other Learned Author says, The wise Creator of Heaven and Earth is wont, when the measure of our Wickedness comes to the height, rather to inflict upon us Temporal, than Eternal Punishments, and to use for our Amendment the occasion of these Natural Effects, thereby to affright us from the Terrour of those Sights to a Repentance, and dutiful respect of him; for God speaks to Men not only with the Tongues of Men by Prophets, Apostles, and Teachers, but sometimes also by Elements, and other extraordinary Signs in the Heavens, Earth, or Sea.

In order whereunto, it cannot surely be unseasonable, nor unprofitable to Publish to the World, the following Account, but may by the Blessing of Heaven, cause some Profligate Persons to forsake their Evil ways; and thereby divert the just Judgments of the Almighty from being pour'd down upon this wicked Generation. But we hasten to the Matter of Fact, in the Relation of which we have not consulted any quaint Expressions, being much more willing to trace the Truth, and therefore followed the Words of the Letter.

SIR

* EB65 A100. 694m



*Feb.* 7th. 1694.

*SIR,*

IN *Meirioneth-shire* in *North-Wales* in many Parishes adjacent to the *West-Sea*, for several Weeks past, and at this present Writing, there has, and doth frequent strange Birds, or Insects, the like never seen in *England* before; one of which being shot, and all admiring at it, and none knowing the Name thereof, *&c.* Resolved to send it to *Oxford*; which accordingly they did, to have the *University*'s Opinion thereof; which said it was a *Locust*: And since in those places where the said Birds or Locusts most frequented, ariseth not only great Smoaks, but also great Flashes and quantities of Fire out of the Earth; some round like Balls, others grow on high, like Pillars and Perimades, so disperseth into Balls, *&c.* Which hath not only destroyed several Cattel, Horses, Sheep, but several out Houses, *viz.* Oxon, Cow-Houses, Sheep-Coats, *&c.* but hath burnt and consum'd a great many Stacks and Reeks of Hay and Corn; And in particular, and most remarkable, A Gentleman seeing one of his Corn-Reeks smoak, was so curious as to take a Ladder to see if any Fire had happen'd therein; but the said Corn-Reek consum'd and burnt together the Ladder, but he received no damage at all; and where the said Fire runs on the Ground, it consumeth all Grass, Hedges, *&c.* and so poysoneth the Ground, that Cattle, *&c.* that endeavour to graze thereon, die immediately, whereby a great many persons have received exceeding great Losses, and by reason thereof, and that there Fodder is consumed thereby, are necessitated to drive their Cattel farther into the Countrey to be fed and preserved; and the Inhabitants there about are afraid of the said Fire: Many run farther into the Countrey. And that one thing more is remarkable; That two persons being at Plow, they saw at some distance a Smoak rise out of the Earth, and afterwards a Fire which suddainly came upon them, and destroyed their Cattel wherewith they were plowing, but neither of the said persons received any damage, neither hath the said Fire done any harm to Man, Woman or Child, although the said Fire hath destroyed some out-Houses, Cattel, *&c.* in the same Fields and places where they have been; which is looked on as a Miracle, and grand Preservation.

This Fire hath happen'd in some Mountains and Hills, which hath consumed them, that they are now lower then the Valleys that were on each side of them; and some other Mountains, on whose sides were Hedges, Ditches, Trees, *&c.* are now ran down into the Valleys upon other Persons Lands, and covered them, that none knows their own Bounds, or own Grounds or Bounds where it so happened; and Exceeding great Trees is now growing in the said Valleys, which were three Weeks before growing in these natural Plains or Hills sides, Monntains, *&c.* The like in those parts, all *Wales*, *England* and *Scotland*, or *Ireland* was never heard of.

*The Truth of this Relation is attested by Letters under the Hands of several Worthy Gent. of that Countrey; also by several Lawyers and other Gentlemen now in Town.*

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